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SYNOPSIS OF EPISODE 13

"THE SECRET SKULL"

Written by Hope Spring & Joe Brandt Directed by Duke Chasne

The wheel to which Ann is strapped, drops over the cliff to land on a sand bank. Robert, Tarka and Jane start running for the cliff. John is awakened by Baxter and when he learns what has happened, he arouses the camp, and tells the Indians to get their ponies and follow him. John and Baxter race for the cliff. As Jane, Tarka and Robert start down the rocky cliff, Baxter shoots, hoping to get Robert. But Jane has stepped in the way and she receives the bullet and falls. Tarka stops but Jane begs him to go on and leave her, saying that the Charkas will kill them both if they find them together. Meanwhile, Ann has succeeded in getting free from the wheel and, terrified, has hidden in the rocks. Robert and Tarka reach the foot of the cliff and find the wheel but no trace of Ann. As the Indians pass Jane, one of them stops. Jane recognizes him as Ramona and reminds him that she ~~had~~ saved his life the year previous when he got in trouble at one of their fiestas. She exacts his promise that he will help the white people, Ann and Robert as they are in the right. Ramona promises and Jane dies in his arms. Meanwhile, Baxter, John and the Indians have captured Robert and Tarka, ^{and} are searching for Ann. Ramona joins them just as John finds Ann and drags her forth from her hiding place in the rocks. Again he takes the map which Jane has given her and gives orders to the Indians to take Robert and Tarka back to camp- to be sacrifices for the medicine man. For Ann, John concocts a fiendish scheme. Lashing her to two logs tied together, he hurls her into the stream, laughing as he tells Baxter that there is a waterfall a little way below that will undoubtedly rid them of Ann for all time. Then John and Baxter take one of the Indians with them and go on toward the cave which the map indicates is the hiding place of Calvin's treasure. Then we see Ann carried over the high waterfall. The logs plunge into the pool beneath the falls, come up, right themselves and float on down the stream. Just before dawn, Ramona finds a way to keep his promise to Jane and cautiously frees Robert and Tarka, telling them how to follow the trail to the caves.

But, in hurling Ann into the stream, Baxter and John have, unconsciously done Ann a good turn. The stream leads directly to the caves and Ann floats under an arch of rocks and into a pool in the

center of the net work of caves just as John and Baxter and their Indian climb over the rocks above the caves. Ann succeeds in getting loose from the ropes that bound her to the logs and is looking about for a way of escape when Baxter and John catch sight of her. They start down the rocks after her. To escape them, Ann dives into the pool, swims under water and discovers an under water passage that leads into a tunnel in the rocks. When Baxter, John and the Indian reach the pool, they are amazed to see no sight of Ann. Then follows a frantic search through the caves. But good fortune again attends Ann and as she flees through the net work of tunnels, she accidentally pushes aside a secret door in the rocks. A small room and tunnel is revealed. As she hears the others coming closer, she climbs into the secret room and closes the door. There she finds a chest with the words- PROPERTY OF JIM CALVIN- written on it. She opens the chest to find a skull. Just then, the Indian enters the tunnel by the other end. Desperately, Ann grabs up the skull and hurls it at him. It hits him and the Indian goes down. To her amazement, the skull breaks and a piece of paper falls out. Ann grabs this up and reads- "Calvin fortune was not safe here so it was removed to Tokina Island and placed in charge of Chief Mola." As she starts out of the tunnel, Baxter and John enter. Desperately, Ann runs from them, dropping the paper in her flight. Baxter and John find this. As Ann runs from the tunnel, she meets Robert and Tarka who have carefully followed the trail. The three of them make their escape.

Ann and Robert are safely aboard the Avalon, bound for Tokina, having left Tarka on the docks to watch for Baxter and John, when Robert learns that Baxter and John have gotten past Tarka and have come aboard. Ann and Robert go on deck, intending to leave the steamer and find another way of getting to the island ahead of them, possibly by hydroplane. But Baxter and John see them and start pursuit, chasing them to the upper deck. With no other way of getting past them, Ann and Robert decide upon a desperate course. They climb to the rail and both dive into the water, many, many feet below.

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